Spread of epidemics in West Delhi colonies

2118. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the prevalence of gastroenteritis epidemic in colonies of West Delhi, particularly in Jail Road, Hari Nagar, G Block area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that filth and other wasted are being dumped in the open space covered by plots G-79, G-80, G-82 and G-129 and the same has been piled up to 2 to 3 feet;

(c) whether Central Government will conduct an independent enquiry and take suitable action so that the area is cleaned immediately and Cholera and other epidemics are checked; and

(d) if so details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) According to information received from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) there is no report of epidemic of gastroenteritis in these areas.

(b) The MCD has informed that refuse is being removed regularly from these plots.

(c) and (d) The National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi is already involved in laboratory bases surveillance of cholera in Delhi. It is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments to take suitable action to check cholera and epidemics.

Imposing ban on commercial use of silver foils

2119. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some people are using aluminium for making silver foils, which are used for coating sweet meats;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to check this malpractice;

(c) whether Government would consider imposing a ban on commercial use of silver foils to eliminate the misuse; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No such report has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The standards of silver leaf are already prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules.

Occurrence of Toxins in Imported Pulses/Lentils

2120. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some imported lentils/pulses have been found to contain certain naturally occurring toxins, that are harmful to human health;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these legumes are mixed with Indian pulses;

(c) if so, what are the full details thereof;

(d) what action has been taken in this regard; and